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The Much Too New Chief Of Intelligence

The President's appointment of Admiral William F. Raborn Jr. to be the director of the Central Intelligence Agency is disturbing for reasons which can't and don't reflect on this distinguished officer. Mr. Johnson seems to be satisfied that any man, who can make for himself a name like Admiral Raborn's in science and naval operations can run an intelligence agency just about as well as the next fellow. It may be that there is no such thing as an expert opinion on the subject, but the experience of other governments which have been in this line of business longer suggests that intelligence is a science sui generis and that the skills involved are not necessarily interchangeable. Perhaps it is time for Congress to have a close look at C. I. A. — a look so close that nobody can peer over its shoulder at the agency's activities in espionage, economics, overseas business, military operations, and the multifarious arts of suasion and dissuasion. On our intelligence depend our decisions. It is not a job for amateurs.